

Remarks

This paper responds to a final Official Action mailed October 23, 2003.

Claims 1, 3-20 and 24-36 are pending, of which claims 19, 20, 24-29, 35 and 36 have been cancelled. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3-18 and 30-34 are allowed. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

The specification stands objected to because information such as the title of the invention should not appear on the abstract page. Applicant has amended the specification to address the specific informality noted by the Examiner. Applicant therefore requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,717,370 (Rohrig). Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,293,871 (Geislinger). Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,024,120 (Andra) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,899,323 (Fukahori et al.). Claims 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andra and Fukahori et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,112,282 (Patterson). Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geislinger further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,112,282 (Patterson). Applicant has cancelled these claims in order to advance examination of the application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicant does not believe fees are due in connection with filing this communication. If, however, additional fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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